SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, there is a ruling by the hon. Chairman ...*(interruptions)*... Let me complete.....*(interruptions)*...I asked for all the facts. The hon. Chairman, said, "I will come to you."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I know that. Just, let me say...*(interruptions)*...Please, take your seat.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Now, the hon. Minister has come making a statement that legal opinion would be taken. He cannot get precedence over the hon. Chairman...*(interruptions)*...The hon. Chairman has to make a statement here getting all the facts...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Mr. Ravi, Please take your seat. I was present in the House when the Chairman said this thing. He said that he is examining all the papers and he himself will state all these things. Since he has made a statement on the same matter in the other House....*(interruptions)*...

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, this is only for the information of the Hou...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): This is only for the information of the House. The Chairman is seized of the matter.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BILL, 1998

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we will take up Statutory Resolution on National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Second) Ordinance, 1998. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, not present; Shri Gaya Singh, not present; Shir J. Chithranjan, not present. So, the Resolution is not moved.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission I move:

> "That the Bill to declare the institution known as the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration"

THE VICE-CHAIRNAM (SHRI SANATAN BISI): The Motion is moved...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Kernataka): Will he not mention the salient features of the Bill?...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): O.K., Mr. minister, please make a mention.

DR. A.K. PATEL: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in our country there are a large number of educational institutions imparting diploma and degree courses in pharmacy, but there is no institution of excellence in pharmacy, as available in other fields, like engineering, technology, medical education, etc. The approach and the concept of NIPER from the very beginning has been to set up an institute of excellence to provide leadership in the field of pharmaceutical education, research and training. NIPER is expected to go beyond the conventional and traditional methods of teaching. The wide spectrum of objectives and activities of NIPER necessitates a degree of autonomy particularly in respect of developments and adoption of the education and training curricula. Such an autonomy and flexibility as available to the Institutes like the IITs, can be given only if NIPER is declared an Institute of national importance and is empowered to adopt its own curricula and award degrees and fellowships, etc.

The main objectives of the institute are: (i) Tonning up the level of pharmaceutical education and research by training the future teachers, research scientists and managers of the industry and profession; (ii) creation of national centres to cater to the needs of the pharmaceutical industry and other research and teaching institutes; (iii) collaboration with Indian industry to help it meet global challenges and (iv) study of sociological aspects of drug use and abuse and rural pharmacy, etc.

In order to enable the institute to start its academic programmes for the session 1998-99, an Ordinance called the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Second) Ordinance, 1998, No. 9 of 1998 was promulgated on 23.4.98 to declare the institution known as the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research to be an Institution of National importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith. The NIPER Bill, 1998 seeks to replace this Ordinance.

The Bill which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 28th June was passed by the Lok Sabha.

The question was proposed.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY (Andhra Pradesh): You speak first. (*Interruptions*) Sir, let there be no disturbance. I rise to support the Bill, but at the same time, I would to make a few observations. The concept was there since 1953. As given in the introduction to the Bill, it has been pending with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education since 1988. A Society was set up in 1991 and it was referred to the Standing Committee on Petro-Chemicals in 1997. It was presented to the Lok Sabha in 1997. Now it has come to this House in 1998. Sir, this idea has been moving since 1953 till now like the proverbial swadeshi Indian Bullock Cart. It has taken 45 years for this concept to come to this House.

I am not blaming this Government; at least I thank them for having come this year. How the Government of this country is moving in this matter, I would like the Members to make a note of it. Secondly, Sir, the objective of setting up such a National Institute on Education and Research, in the pharmaceutical sector is highly laudable, especially when the MNCs have been dominating this field of pharmaceuticals all over the world and particularly in our country, and exploiting the people of our country to the hilt. We need self-sufficiency in pharmaceuticals; we need self-reliance in pharmaceuticals; and we need the pharmaceutical research, which at present is not to be expectations, nor to our requirements. Hitherto the concentration was only, on what was jocularly referred to as reverse engineering.

Now, Sir, it is a regime of intellectual property rights. There is a tightening noose around the neck of our country, almost all the third world countries, by these intellectual property rights regime and this everyone of us knows. What is not clear in this Bill is this:

1. What are guidelines for admission?
2. Whether all the States will have the representation due to them?
3. Whether reservations will be observed in admissions to the institutions?
4. Whether you are going to promote what you have been doing in other universities, as self-financing courses?

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): In the Chair.]

If that were not to be the case then the economically disadvantaged are being discriminated against and they will suffer a lot. I would also suggest to the Government to set up this institution not only in one place but to have such institutions on the regional basis, as we have IITs in this country.

My next point is, Madam, please refer to page three of the Bill. I have to put a pointed question. Why should you have four members from the Pharmaceuticals

— in whatever name it may be — on the Board of Directors? Four Members from the phamaceutical industry, some of them ex-officio and only one member from the Ministry looking after the pharmaceuticals. I think it is not very much different from the earlier ones. I know need the cooperation of industry for research in pharmaceuticals. But, Madam, firstly, we should be careful and should not give scope for indirect intellectual property piracy.

8.00 P.M.

.... even by the domestic industry, *vis-a-vis* the scientists who are working in the institutions. Secondly, they may influence the type and the direction of research for instant profits by the pharmaceutical industry.We have the best example. There is always a possibility of profit-oriented products coming out, like viagra, which is catching the eye of so many people.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): There are many more.

DR. Y RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: There won't be drugs produced, to meet the requirements of common diseases which many people are getting today in our country; for example, malaria, tuberculosis, filariasis, infective hepatitis, serum hepatitis, etc. So many such diseases are there. Even today, we don't have the correct answers to these diseases. On the other hand, we have plenty of medicines in the market, coming from multinational companies as well as from domestic companies, targeted against the diseases which affluent people get — hypertension, heart diseases, cancer, AIDS, etc., etc.

Unfortunately, Madam, research, so far, in our country has not been concentrated on diseases, or, drugs which are meant for treatment of the common diseases, which the people are getting in this country. I fear, with the involvement of a very large number of representatives of pharmaceutical companies in the Board of Directors, the whole direction of the research may be directed to the drugs which are useful for the rich and the affluent.

Then, there is only one representatives from the Ministry of Health. It is very strange. That too, he is an official — the Drug Controller. There are two from medical institutions. But, strangely, these two would be heads of institutions. It is a pharmaceutical institution. I would have understood the rationale if some professors of a pharmaceutical subject were represented on the Board of Directors. What is the point of having the heads of institutions? They may be some surgeons or biochemists or some such persons who may not know anything about pharmaceuticals.

I would request the Minister concerned to go into these matters and rectify these defects, if possible.

I also feel that since this is to be a university, or, something like a university, a prominent educationist should also be there on the Board of Directors.

One more point I would like to bring to your notice, Madam. We are living in what is called a 'pharmaceutical jungle'. We have about 60,000 pharmaceutical products, a dubious luxury which even the USA or the UK does not enjoy. I recall the most erudite and very useful report placed in Parliament in 1974. It has been forgotten. Probably, destroyed. I do not know because we are not getting any copies now. I am referring to the Hathi Committee Report which had made every valuable suggestions, as far as the pharmaceutical industry is concerned.

The Hathi Committee had talked about an essential drugs lists. This is supported by the World Health Organisation also. The Hathi Committee had said. that we need only 117 drugs for the treatment of ailments. Just 117 drugs. But there are about 60,000 formulations in the market today. Even the World Health Organisation has said that we need only 236 drugs for most of the diseases which are prevalent in the country.

The Committee had also talked about abolition of brand names. Every drug now has a brand name due to which the cost of the drug is double or even treble. A Third World country, a poor country, like ours cannot afford such a luxury.

Thirdly, the Committee had talked about removal of non-essential drugs like tonics which are costly and which give no benefit to the patients or the other persons. It induces a lot of hope that a person would become more healthy and all that. Madam, millions of rupees are wasted on these drugs called tonics, but there is no benefit at all to the patients or the other people.

The Hathi Committee had also talked about removal of what are called irrational combinations of drugs which are very much there even today in the market. But, Madam, unfortunately, somehow all these advices and directions were not taken into consideration, and even this Report was almost destroyed.

One important recommendation that the Committee made is to constitute, what we call, a National Drug Authority. Probably, a National Drug Authority would have gone into at least some of these matters and it would have exercised some sort of control over this jungle. Even this has not come to the mind of our rulers so far. I think at least now this Government will take up this particular aspect of the recommendations. I sincerely request the ruling side to go through the Hathi Committee Report again. It is a wonderful Report. Many of the third world countries have accepted it. Our neighbour, Bangladesh, has accepted it. But we did not accept it due to, I am afraid pressure from multinational companies because, if you follow all these recommendations, multinational companies' role will be minimised in this country. Therefore, Madam, the Ministry should have a close look and a second look at this Report. It should also take into consideration some of the points I have raised in finalising this Bill. I request you also to see the fate of our pharmaceutical industry today. I will take just one minute on this.

See how the IDPL, one of the prestigious pharmaceutical company in our country, is languishing today, almost closed. The other day we saw hundreds of people coming from the IDPL, from five places, and demonstrating just in front of our gate. It is not only that the company has been almost closed, but the workers have not been paid their wages for the last three months. It is rather shameful. Not only that. My friend was referring to the Bengal Immunity, a prestigious company. I know it from my young days. When I was a student, the Bengal Immunity was there. Its drugs were very very popular. It was a very prestigious company. Now they say that the production has been suspended. Also look at the Smith Stanistreet Co. which has also been closed. These are all public sector companies. This is the fate of the public sector pharmaceutical industry today that we are seeing. We have almost opened our doors to multinational companies so that they can just plunder this country, plunder the poor people of this country.

I recommend this Bill. I laud this Bill. It is a very laudable Bill, I say. But, at the same time, people have to take many things into consideration before finalising this Bill.

Thank you, Madam. Thank you very much.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, the Minister, while introducing the Bill, has said that this Bill had been considered by the Standing Committee. I want to know categorically from the Minister whether he has considered all the recommendations of the Standing Committee and whether all the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been incorporated in the Bill.

Secondly, the Ordinance was issued on April 23, saying that the academic season was commensing and that there would be admissions. Today is the 11th of June. Have the admission been completed? If

you have resorted to the Ordinance, it should have been urgent. In this span of one-and-a-half months, has the Institute started functioning, are the admissions over and how many students have been admitted? We want the figures.

Secondly, we are giving it the status of a National Institute. The Institute was in existence. How was its performance? You have talked about the future. You are today recognising it as an institute of national importance. Have you studied the credential of the Institute? How has it functioned? There is no report before us. If there is an institution already, a society registered in 1980, what are the activities of that institution? How has it fared? Does it deserve the status that we are giving it today? There is no explanation from the Minister. You have compared it with IITs etc. Are you making it an educational Institute? You are further going up to considering it as a deemed university. Just like the health universities, is it going to be a pharmaceutical university?

If that is your intention, look into your Governing body rules. Why have you clubbed it and filled it up with industry. Will it be a university? Will it be an educational institution? If they are interested in the pharmaceutical industry, have you filled it up into the Governing body. What is the difference you have brought about? Why are you doing to this institution. All these years it was under your Ministry. You felt that this is a technical subject. It should be thought as an education. So, as a university you are bifurcating it. But, have you built in the knowledge into that? No. Same department plus industry. Sitting in the Health Ministry, you are doing the same job and you have transferred and recognised it as an institute of national importance without even looking into its performance, as to what were its activities, how it has faired; whether it deserves the status of an institute of national importance. These are my queries. Mr. Radhakrishna Murty has asked other questions which I wanted to ask. Sir, I wanted pointed answer to my queries.

DR. A.K. PATEL: Madam, as the hon. Member says, the Bill was delayed by 45 years. So, there was no haste in bringing forward this Bill. The Standing Committee's reports have been taken into consideration. Shri Radhakrishna Murty's suggestions have also been considered. The institution does not differentiate between drugs for the poor and drugs for the rich. Drugs for the diseases are same. I have personally seen the institution. They are doing a good research work on malaria. It is a disease of the poor, who stay in open doors and are exposed to mosquito bites. So far as technical persons are concerned, they are from the pharmaceutical industries. They know the subject well. It is governed by so many people. So, there will not be any undue favouritism from the industry.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, not a single point has been answered to my pointed queries.

DR. A.K. PATEL: 19 students have been admitted to Ph.D. programme.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, I had put my pointed questions and he has not answered. He has answered only one question. If the Ministry does not want to answer, what can I do?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The question is:

> "That the Bill to declare the institution known as the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clasue 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. A.K. PATEL: I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Price Policy For Copra and Raw Jute

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): Madam Vice-Chairperson, I want to announce the minimum support prices for Copra and raw jute.

I. Minimum Support Price for Copra for 1998 Season.

The Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Milling Copra at Rs. 2900 per quintal and for FAQ variety of Ball Copra at Rs. 3125 per quintal for 1998 season. This marks an increase of Rs. 200 per quintal in MSPs for each Milling and Ball Copra for 1998 season over their respective MSPs for previous year. The increase in MSPs is expected to induce the copra growers to invest more and raise the productivity and production of copra.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) would continue to act as a nodal agency to undertake the price support operations for copra.

II. Minimum Support Price for Raw Jute for 1998-99 season.

Similarly the Government of India has also fixed the Minimum Support Price for TD-5 grade of raw Jute for Assam for the 1998-99 season at Rs. 650 per quintal. This marks the highest ever increase of Rs. 80 per quintal over the MSP announced for previous season. The MSP for other varieties and grades of raw jute will be fixed in the light of normal market price differentials as compared to TD-5 grade.

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) would continue to act as a nodal agency to undertake the price support operation for Jute for 1998-99 season.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Before me there is a list of Members who would like to seek clarifications.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, what about the statement on the cyclonic storm in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Your name is there for seeking clarifications on the statement regarding price policy for copra and raw jute; and statement regarding cyclonic storm.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Madam Vice-Chairperson, the minimum support price fixed for copra is far below the cost of production of copra. This will not solve the problems of the peasantry. This will only aggravate the problems of the peasantry. The Kerala Agricultural Production Commission have done some homework. They have come to the conclusion that the cost of production of one coconut will be Rs. 5.53. On the basis of this calculation, actually 677 nuts are required to make one quintal of copra and other processing expenses. So, the cost of one quintal of milling copra will come to Rs. 4,160. Now, the Minister has fixed it at Rs. 2,900.

This is far from the cost of production. As far as ball copra is concerned, eight months are required for making ball copra. Actually, if you take into account the interest at the rate of twelve per cent for eight months, the entire cost of one quintal of ball copra will come to Rs. 4,373/-. That also is far below the cost of production. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the minimum price is fixed taking into consideration the cost of production of coconut in the present year. I also want to know from the hon. Minister as to how the cost of production is calculated.